(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Hon'ble Prime Minister has launched a new initiative namely "Hariyali" on 27.1.2003. Under this initiative, all watershed development programmes (DPAP, DDP and IWDP) of the Department of Land Resources would be implemented through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI). The basic features of "Hariyali" are given below:

Under this initiative, the Gram Sabha would replace the Watershed Association and the Gram Panchayat would execute the watershed project with technical support from the Block Panchayat who would act as the Project Implementing Agency (PIA) for all watershed projects in a particular Block. In case the Block/Zilla Panchayat has no technical staff to support the Gram Panchayats, suitable Government Line Department/Autonomous Agency may be identified for the purpose. Failing all these options, a reputed voluntary organization (NGO) of good operational/Financial standing in the district with adequate technical expertise and experience would be identified to act as the PIA. This initiative is applicable to all new watershed development projects to be sanctioned in future.

Deplorable condition of landless rural people

163. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the deplorable condition of landless rural people;

(b) if so, whether more land reforms work would be taken up for redistribution of land among the landless and dalits; and

(c) the other steps taken to improve the rural economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (c) Land and its management falls within the administrative jurisdiction of the respective State Governments as provided under Entry No. 18, List-II (State List) of Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The Central Government plays an advisory and coordinating role in the field. However, the

implementation of land reforms programmes are being reviewed from time to time at various fora including Chief Ministers/Revenue Ministers/ Revenue Secretaries Conferences. As per information received from the State Governments, an area of 53.94 lakh acres has been distributed to the rural landless poor which includes 50% of the area to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries. Besides, Bhoodan land to the extent of 21.75 lakh acres and 147.47 lakh acres of Government Wastelands have also been distributed to eligible rural poor beneficiaries.

Review of anti-poverty programmes

†164. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been made in respect of the implementation of the various poverty alleviation programmes introduced in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have worked out any new poverty alleviation programmes in various States during the Tenth Five Year Plan; if so, the details of the allotments made therefor for the ongoing financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Rural Development has established a comprehensive system for review and monitoring of Rural Development Programmes, including poverty alleviation programmes. The Programmes are being reviewed at the Central level by the Performance Review Committee. Four meetings of this Committee have so far been held. These reviews revealed that the progress of implementation of the schemes vary from State to State and the progress varies under different programmes even within a State. There is also need for continuous review of the programmes at periodic intervals in order to ensure that the benefits of the programmes reach the target groups and also to make mid-course corrections, if any, needed.

(c) The Sampoorna Gramin RozgarYojana (SGRY) has been launched with effect from 25th September, 2001 and has become fully operational

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.